

REMARKS

Applicant(s) and applicant's attorney express appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent interview held on March 14, 2007. Claims 13-38 were pending in the application at the time of the Office Action. Claims 13-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claim 38 was rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102. By this response, Applicant has cancelled claim 38 without prejudice or disclaimer¹. As such, claims 13-37 are presented for the Examiner's consideration in light of the following remarks. Reconsideration and allowance for the above-identified application are now respectfully requested.

A. Rejection on the Merits

1. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 13-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being non-statutory subject matter. During the telephone conference with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated willingness to reconsider the non-statutory subject matter rejections and withdraw these rejections based on revised examination procedures at the patent office. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now rendered moot and requests allowance of claims 13-37.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Carr (US Patent No. 6,697,363 B1). In order to advance allowance of the pending claims, Applicant has cancelled claim 38 without prejudice and, as such, respectfully submits that this rejection is now rendered moot.

B. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event of any question, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate a telephone conversation with the undersigned.

¹ Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any cancelled claim in a subsequent divisional or continuation application.

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Respectfully submitted,

/sara d. jones/ Registration # 47,691
SARA D. JONES
Registration No. 47,691
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 022913

SDJ:kmb
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